



Caroline Cromwell, 9, climbs her way to the top of a rock wall set up by the Team 221st Outdoor Recreation Center at the Ford Summer Jam Aug. 16. The wall provided four different levels of difficulty for climbers of all ages.

Summer Jam aids CAC grand opening

Story and photos by
Cassandra Kardeke
221st Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

More than 600 people enjoyed the cooler weather and a wealth of activities at the Wiesbaden Army Airfield Ford Summer Jam Aug. 16.

Kicking off the festivities was the grand opening of the Community Activity Center, formerly known as the Catering Center, at the airfield. Having undergone renovations for three months "the CAC will serve as a community focal point for several events and activities," said Laura Waid, Morale, Welfare and Recreation special events coordinator.

"There are still some finishing touches being done, it will be the ideal location for several upcoming events," Waid said. With remodeled restrooms, a fresh coat of paint and new floor tiling the CAC can host a variety of activities including a bar and lounge which opened back in June. After being completely overhauled with new walls, ceiling, furniture, paint and a dance floor, the Victory Point Bar and Lounge is open Thursday through Saturday evenings. A lounge area with pool table and dartboard is in the basement, known as the Keller. "It's really quite a neat place

"There are still some finishing touches being done, it will be the ideal location for several upcoming events." — Laura Waid, MWR special events



Humans weren't the only ones having a great time at this year's Ford Summer Jam. In his best hula outfit, "Jack" Creighton poses for the best dressed pet contest, but was beaten out by "Dase Mae" Ames, a boxer-terrier dressed as a Kansas City cheerleader.



Spectators watch in horror as John Dale eats up the contents of a "dirty" diaper during the "I Bet You Won't" contest at the Ford Summer Jam at Wiesbaden Army Airfield. A spin off from the popular MTV television show, Team 221st Outdoor Recreation personnel developed their own version of the contest with plenty of stomach-turning contests. Dale went on to win the competition by being the first to "clean his dirty diapers."

to just come unwind and relax," said Jean Morrison, recreation chief for Morale, Welfare and Recreation during the Victory Point's grand opening.

"The highlight of the CAC is really its versatility, the opportunities are just endless," said Waid. Units and organizations can reserve a conference room free of charge on the second floor. Rooms downstairs are based on fees and catered events, however the facilities can be used by any U.S. identification card holders.

Following the ribbon-cutting ceremony and a tour through the facility, spectators wandered out doors where the real party was taking place. Complete with the rock-climbing wall, a whopper hopper and live music provided by the American Forces Network, plenty of events and activities were held for all ages.

"I bet you won't" turned into "I can't believe you just ate that" as the adventure experts at Outdoor Recreation simulated their own version of the popular MTV television show.

"We came up with our own versions of disgusting things for kids and adults to take part in," said Joe Harris. Spread throughout the day, Harris held separate versions of the game for children and adults, including a "dirty diaper" eating con-

test. Granted, everything put in the diaper was edible, but it was made to look like a typical dirty diaper. "We had chocolate pudding, peanut butter and other surprises in the diapers, but it's the look and thought process that psyches most people out," he said.

Other highlights of the day included costumed pet contests, free aerobics classes and massages, volleyball, baseball and live music by the Wiesbaden Gospel Choir and the band Rain.



Wiesbaden Kontakt member Salvatore Fardella serves during a volleyball match between the German-American friendship club and members of 221st Youth Services.

Company fights rumors in Baghdad

Story and photo by
Spc. Christopher Stanis
1st Armored Division Public
Affairs Office

In a city that runs rampant with rumors, the opinions of Baghdad's residents are easily swayed by misinformation. Tactical psychological operations teams throughout the city combat false rumors daily to dispel fears and paranoia citizens may have about the coalition.

"If there is somebody spreading rumors against (the United States), we're not going to go out and call them liars; that would just lend them more credibility," said Cpl. Philip Chun, Tactical PSYOP Detachment 1230. "Instead we just put out the truth."

The TPTs from the 315th Tactical PSYOP Company spend a lot of time disseminating information through *Baghdad Now*, the PSYOP-created newspaper designed to give citizens positive news about the coalition's work in Iraq. They also distribute posters and handbills and broadcast messages with important information about staying away from unexploded ordnance or joining the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps. The PSYOP teams also listen to the concerns of residents.

"We're not (intelligence) gatherers," said Capt. Aaron Davis, TPD 1230 officer in charge, "but if somebody comes up to us with a problem, we won't turn them away." Davis said they collect as much information as they can about a situation — whether it is a robbery, a need for medical care or information leading to the arrest of fedayeen members — and pass it on to the

proper authorities. The willingness of Iraqis to approach and work with coalition forces to provide information reflects how tension has diminished since the 315th TPC's arrival in Baghdad May 1.

"In a lot of ways you can tell Iraqis are more accepting of us because PSYOP posters used to stay up an average of three days; then they would get torn down," Chun said. "Now we see posters still hanging after three weeks."

Considering the population of Baghdad, only a small number of people hate the coalition enough to bring harm to the forces, said Davis. "There are five million people in Baghdad. I believe 99.96 percent of them are happy with us here. Eventually that small percentage who are against the coalition will be drowned by people saying, 'Shut up. Life is better.'"

Davis also attributed much of the remaining resistance to Iraqis at the lowest end of the social ladder.

"The middle-class people and the educated people in Baghdad realize that the rebuilding process is going to take time," he continued. "It is the poor guy who had nothing before the war, has nothing now and looks into the future and sees nothing, who is taking advantage that we're not as aggressive as Saddam."

Davis said over time Iraq could become a great example for peace in the Middle East. "Iraq could be a shining light among Islamic countries," he said. "In the future it could be a good friend of the United States."



A 315th Tactical PSYOP Company soldier distributes *Baghdad Now* to Baghdadis socializing outdoors. The PSYOP-created newspaper was designed to provide citizens with positive news on the coalition's work in Iraq.

Help for parents

Single parents

Join the Single Parent Support Group to meet friends, share ideas and provide support to other single parents every first and third Wednesday of the month from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Dexheim Army Community Service. A free lunch is provided. Call mil 334-5716 to let them know you are coming.

Parent support

The Team 221st New Parent Education and Support Program offers a variety of classes to assist parents every Tuesday from 6-7:30 p.m. Topics include baby basics parenting class; ages and stages; taming your toddler's tantrums; basic newborn safety and childproofing information; and budgeting for baby. Classes are free. To sign up call civ (0611) 532-9842.

Pregnancy help

The Team 221st New Parent Education and Support group hosts a pregnancy support group every Thursday from noon to 1:30 p.m. at Building 7005 in Crestview Housing. Topics include preparing for labor, breast feeding and coping with the physical and emo-

tional changes of pregnancy. Call civ (0611) 532-9842 for more information.

Parenting classes

If you've had a new baby or are feeling overwhelmed by your toddler join the Infant and Toddler Parenting classes. Topics include baby basics, child proofing your home, child development and communication. Registration is open to parents of children up to four years old. Classes are free. Call civ (0611) 532-9842 for more information.

WIC-Overseas

The Women, Infants and Children Overseas program is available to eligible military families in Wiesbaden and Dexheim. For more information on services available call mil 338-7366, civ (0611) 380-7366 or stop by the WIC office at Building 7005 in Crestview Housing.

Hourly child care

Hourly child care is available at both the Hainerberg and Wiesbaden Army Airfield Child Development Centers as well as Family Child Care homes. Pre-paid care cards are also available for purchase.

Facility dedicated to a true 'soldier's friend'

By Spc. Shauna McRoberts

1st Armored Division Public Affairs Office

Task Force 1st Armored Division's dining facility was dedicated to Bob Hope in a ceremony Aug. 24 at Baghdad International Airport.

"Today we honor one of our own, a truly great friend of America's soldiers, Bob Hope," said Brig. Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, 1st AD commanding general.

Hope, one of television's most renowned comedians and actors, worked in vaudeville, radio, film, television, and most prominently as a USO entertainer. He spent much of World War II traveling the world to entertain Allied troops, a service he performed with gusto during wars in Korea, Vietnam and the Middle East. His "entertain-the-troops" tours became his enduring signature.

"For several generations of sol-

diers, Bob Hope brought us a piece of home, an infectious smile, great entertainment and a brief break from the rigors of combat," said Dempsey. "Wherever there were U.S. soldiers in harm's way, Bob Hope was there with them. In the Pacific Islands, the hills of Korea, the jungles of Vietnam and the sands

Battalion, and Spc. Omid P. Zehtab, a tanker assigned to Company C, 2nd Battalion, 37th Armor Regiment, 1st AD's noncommissioned officer and soldier of the year, unveiled the sign and the plaque, officially dedicating the dining facility to Bob Hope.

The dining facility, which is currently open 24 hours a day, serves meals to thousands of 1st AD soldiers daily.

"This will be a place for soldiers to relax, joke with

friends, tell stories and watch a little football," said Dempsey.

"It will host the USO shows that Bob made famous, and it will help keep those smiles on the faces of the next generation of American soldiers, doing their duty far from home," he said.

"For several generations of soldiers, Bob Hope brought us a piece of home, an infectious smile, great entertainment and a brief break from the rigors of combat." — Brig. Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, 1st AD commander

of Desert Storm, Bob Hope was there."

Hope died July 27 shortly after his 100th birthday.

Staff Sgt. Robert S. Potter Jr., an imagery analyst with Headquarters and Headquarters Operations Company, 501st Military Intelligence



Photo by Spc. Shauna McRoberts

Staff Sgt. Robert S. Potter Jr. (left), an imagery analyst with Headquarters and Headquarters Operations Company, 501st Military Intelligence Battalion, and Spc. Omid P. Zehtab, a tanker with Company C, 2nd Battalion, 37th Armor Regiment, 1st AD's noncommissioned officer and soldier of the year, unveil the plaque, officially dedicating the dining facility to Bob Hope.

221st BSB – Wiesbaden, Wackernheim, Dexheim

Community news notes

WCSC open house

The Wiesbaden Community Spouses Club hosts an Open House at Wiesbaden Army Airfield Community Activity Center Sept. 3 from 1-3 p.m. Come check out what services and organizations are available in the Team 221st communities.

Sunday School

Sunday School kicks off at both the Hainerberg and Wiesbaden Army Airfield chapels Sept. 7. Classes will be held from 9:30-10:30 a.m. at Hainerberg and 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at Wiesbaden Army Airfield. For more information call mil 337-1570 or civ (0611) 705-1570.

Health fair

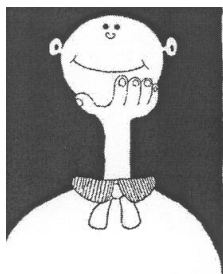
Tony Bass Fitness Center hosts a Fitness Fun and Health Fair Sept. 18 from noon to 4 p.m. Check out just how fit you are, enroll in the Civilian Fitness Program, get a health assessment and find out about upcoming classes.

Used clothing sale

Wiesbaden Area Teachers of Children at Home will host a used curriculum and children's used clothing sale Sept. 16 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. The event will be held at the Army Community Service Cafeteria in Hainerberg Housing. Call Kellie Coombs at civ (0611) 238 4722 for more information.

'Something Different' coming

The Amelia Earhart Playhouse will present an evening of one-act comedies, "Something Different," Sept. 25-27 and Oct. 2-3. Curtain is at 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$5 or €5 for



adults, \$3 or €3 for students and senior citizens. Pick them up at the USO offices in Hainerberg and on the airfield or call the playhouse at mil 336-2473, civ (0611) 816-2473 for reservations.

McCully hours

Several facilities on McCully Barracks in Wackernheim have new hours of operation. The McCully Fitness Center is now open Monday to Friday from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday and Sunday from 8 a.m. to noon. It's also open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. on training holidays and is closed on federal holidays. Call mil 334-4737 or 4725 for details. The McCully Library is now open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. It's closed for lunch from 2-3 p.m. Call mil 334-4783. McCully Auto Skills is now open Thursdays from noon to 8 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Call mil 334-4880.

ACAP update

The Army Career and Alumni Program offers Pre-separation Briefings and Job Assistance Workshops Sept. 2-3 in Wiesbaden. Call mil 337-5709 or civ (0611) 705-5709 for details.

Educators needed

Central Texas College seeks instructors to teach courses in criminal justice and early childhood development. The University of Phoenix, which will be offering master of education and master of business administration graduate degree programs, seeks teaching staff. Minimum requirements are a masters or Ph.D. in these fields of study and at least five years experience. Call the Wiesbaden Education Center at mil 337-5559 or 7435 for details.

Volunteers needed

Volunteers do make a difference

and Team 221st is always looking for more volunteers. Opportunities are endless throughout the community. Call the installation volunteer coordinator at mil 337-5034 or civ (0611) 705-5034 for more information.

Religious services

Wiesbaden Army Airfield Chapel holds Protestant services at 10 a.m., Gospel services at 12:45 p.m. and Catholic services at 5 p.m. Sunday. Hainerberg Chapel features Catholic services at 9 a.m. and Protestant services at 11 a.m. Sunday. For information call mil 337-1570 or civ (0611) 705-1570.

Dealing with deployment

Learn coping strategies during separation from your spouse. Prepare yourself for difficult questions from your child and get ideas for fun family activities. A dealing with deployment class is offered the second Tuesday of each month at 1 p.m. and the third Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at Wiesbaden Army Community Service in Building 07790 in Hainerberg Housing. Call



civ (0611) 705-5034 for details.

Free German classes

Dexheim Army Community Service offers free German language classes for beginners every Wednesday and Thursday from 6-8 p.m. Call Dexheim ACS at civ (06133) 69-716 to register.

FRG training

Army Community Service hosts a Family Readiness Group networking session Sept. 25 from 10-11 a.m. FRG Basic Leader Training will be held Sept. 26 from 10 a.m. to noon. The September Reunion Workshops will be held in the cafeteria at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 8, 15, 23 and 29. For information on these training opportunities call mil 337-5034 or civ (0611) 705-5034.

Teaching youth

Wiesbaden Child and Youth Services seeks instructors for ballet, gymnastics, guitar and other performance arts. Call civ (0611) 705-5383 or stop by the Wiesbaden CYS in Building 07790 in Hainerberg Housing.

Hearts Apart

Dexheim Army Community Service offers a Hearts Apart support

group for spouses of deployed soldiers every Tuesday at 10 a.m. Free child care will be provided if reserved in advance. Call mil 334-5716 or civ (06133) 69-716 for more information.

Jobs open

Army Community Service seeks a Mobilization and Deployment Program educator. Call civ (0611) 705-5034 or mil 337-5034 for more information.

Team 221st Fitness Centers seek martial arts instructors, licensed massage therapists, certified aerobic instructors and personal trainers. Call mil 337-5943 or civ (0611) 705-5943 for more information.

Gary Sinise visits

Well known film and television actor Gary Sinise will visit soldiers and family members in Wiesbaden Sept. 3. Sinise, known for roles in films such as "A Midnight Clear," "Forrest Gump," and "Apollo 13," will visit soldiers at their workplaces during the day. He will meet community members and sign autographs at the Community Activity Center from 3-3:30 p.m. and at the Wiesbaden Dining Facility from 5:30-6 p.m.

New cable channel features community news

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava
222nd Base Support Battalion Public
Affairs Office

A new channel featuring local Baumholder information will soon be available to residents in Smith Barracks and Housing as well as Wetzell, Neubrück and Strassburg Housing and Champion Village.

The 222nd Base Support Battalion has contracted with TKS, the cable company servicing the military community, to provide this service to Baumholder residents. The service is expected to begin broadcasting via cable by mid-September or early October and will be free to all residents who have cable service in their homes, which includes practically everyone in Baumholder.

"As long as you have cable, you will be able to receive the new Command Information Channel," said Madeleine Dwoiakowski, 222nd BSB public affairs officer. Public Affairs will operate the channel directly from the 222nd BSB headquarters. "Every building that has cable service, regardless if the residents have paid service or are just receiving the free cable package, will be able to receive the new information channel," she said.

The new channel will also feature a "ticker tape" along the bottom of the screen where emergency information can be displayed. "This will be an excellent means of getting the word out to community residents whenever we have inclement weather conditions and the commander decides to delay school or work hours," said Dwoiakowski. Updates to the channel are almost instantaneous so the community will receive critical information as quickly as it can be typed into the channel.

The new channel is much more sophisticated than the old Commander's Access Channel that was available to residents in Baumholder and featured a very simple text format and AFN music in the background.

"That was a very problematic and labor intensive process," said Dwoiakowski. The new channel will be Power Point based and almost anything that can be created in Power Point can be included in the channel. "The new channel will also feature background music as well as all the 'bells and whistles' that can be created with Power Point," said Dwoiakowski.

Practically any information that is currently disseminated via flyers or leaflets can be placed in the channel and will be instantly available to the entire community. "This will be an excellent means for organizations like family readiness groups and service agencies to put out their information to the community in a timely manner," said Dwoiakowski.

Public Affairs is currently establishing procedures and policies for the new Command Information Channel. To expedite service to Baumholder residents and avoid any redundancy in information received at Public Affairs, key agencies such as the Directorate of Community Activities, Family Services, Health Clinic, etc. have been asked to consolidate their inputs.

The only limitation to the channel is that if customers do not have access to a computer with Power Point capability, they will have to find a means of putting their information in the proper format for submission to Public Affairs. "We do not expect everyone to submit perfect, ready-to-air information," said Dwoiakowski. "Therefore, in addition to

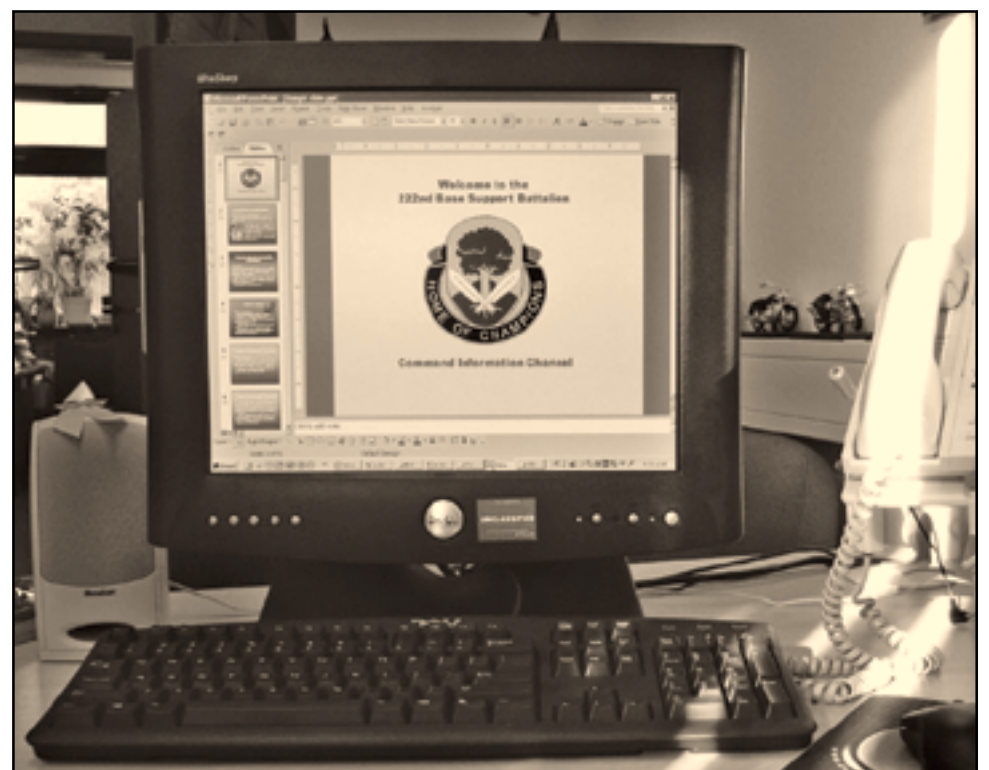


Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Under construction

A prototype introductory slide to the Command Information Channel is displayed on the editor's monitor. The channel will feature all the capabilities of a PowerPoint publication.

the inputs we expect to receive from the large organizations like MWR, we will establish input procedures for people who do not have access to a computer, want to make a one-time input, or have very brief information or news they would like to place on the channel," she said.

Like any new endeavor, growing pains are expected. "We are urging all our customers to be patient until we get into the routine of

producing this broadcast and have ironed out all the kinks in the system," said Dwoiakowski.

Guidance on how to make inputs to the Command Information Channel will soon be distributed to numerous key agencies in the Baumholder community. People who wish to use this new and free service can call Public Affairs for input details and information at mil 485-6191 or civ (06783) 6-6191.

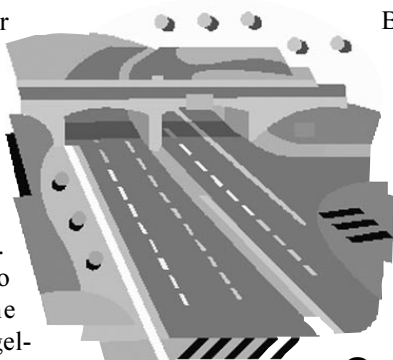
Autobahn A6 closes

Bridge construction and repairs will completely close Autobahn A6 between Kaiserslautern Ost (east) and West Sept. 7 from 5 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sept. 21 from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. Although both

closures will occur on a Sunday when traffic is light, complete closure of an Autobahn can create much traffic congestion and inconvenience. People traveling to or through the Ramstein and Vogelweh areas during these days are asked to avoid traveling on A6 and use alternate routes.

Ramstein has scheduled a bazaar for the weekend of Sept. 21 so persons traveling to the Ramstein bazaar from Baumholder on A62 should use the Ramstein-Miesenbach exit and travel to Ramstein Air Base through Ramstein village.

When returning to Baumholder on the A6 from the direction of Mannheim, it is best to exit at Kaiserslautern Ost and drive through Kaiserslautern on B40 and either reenter the A6 at Kaiserslautern West or continue on B40 and enter the A6 at the Einsiedlerhof junction.



Post notes

For more information call Brigitte Benezet at mil 484-8228 or civ (0631) 413-8228.

Coaches needed

The Baumholder Sports Office is looking for community level basketball players and coaches, men and women. People interested may register at the Baumholder Sports Office or call mil 485-6671/7176 for more information.

Open house

National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month will be observed during September. In observance of this month, all four 104th Area Support Group Community Counseling Centers are having an open house Sept. 25 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The entire community is invited to attend and meet their treatment staff. Visitors can learn more about the substance abuse treatment available in the community. The contributions of treatment providers and the benefits of substance abuse treatment will be highlighted and promoted. This month also lets people know that substance abuse and addictions are public

health problems that can be effectively managed when supported by the entire community. The Baumholder counseling center is located in Wing 8744 of the Baumholder Health clinic. For more information call mil 485-1710.

Yard sale

A semiannual post-wide yard sale will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sept. 13 in all of Baumholder's government housing areas. All sales are for U.S. ID card holders only, and all property must be removed by 6 p.m.

Retiree open house

Retirees can take advantage of many services offered Sept. 20 during Heidelberg's 23rd annual Retiree Open House at the Patrick Henry Village Pavilion from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

"The Retiree Appreciation Day is a great opportunity for retirees to present their concerns personally to a representative. The representatives are here to address issues and ensure they are resolved. This event has a lot to offer and it is our way of saying thank you," explained 1st Personnel Command retirement service officer Jerry Owens.

"USAREUR continues to improve the Retirement Service Program. Please come and show your support," he added.

Automotive exams

Automotive Service Exams will be given in Baumholder during November. Persons interested in testing must order the exams by Sept. 4. Call the Baumholder Army Education Center at mil 485-7557 for more information.

Advanced skills

The Army's Advanced Skills Education Program offers the "Effective Military Writing I Course" Sept. 22-26 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The course teaches essential writing skills, includes a review of grammar and focuses on common types of military writing emphasizing clear organization, concise writing and simple language. There is no cost to the soldier or unit for the course. Each attendee will receive one semester hour of college credit from Central Texas College. Call the Education Center at mil 485-7757 for more information.

Tuition assistance

Army tuition assistance now pays 100 percent of tuition expenses for soldiers, with an annual fiscal year cap of \$4,500, and a per semester hour cap of \$250. Call the education center at mil 485-8891 for more information.

Camp Flexible built at lightning speed

By 1st Lt. Luis A. Rodriguez

Battery C, 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery

Everybody in the Army is aware of acronyms — those three or four-letter words that are part of our everyday language. One of them is LSA or Life Support Area.

The soldiers of 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery, the Flexible Battalion, have added another meaning to LSA: Lightning Speed, Achtung.

The battalion received the mission of building a Life Support Area at Baghdad International Airport as a temporary home for their brothers in arms, who are either arriving or leaving the theater of operations.

That is how a new facility known as Camp Flexible was born.

Construction efforts were led by the soldiers of Battery C. The camp consists of 30 tents, 10 showers, 25 port-a-johns, and everything else that may be needed in a field living area — air-conditioning units, fans and mess areas.

"It is nice to have this," said Cpl. Joseph Steven of the advance party element of the 82nd Airborne Division, the first unit to use the camp.

Within one day the tents were erected, port-a-johns situated, showers activated, just in time for

the first unit to arrive.

Now that is what is called lightning speed.

The achtung part came with the follow-up tasks of setting cots, providing MREs, water and a liaison team for further coordination.

That is how the moniker Lightning Speed, Achtung, or LSA was born.

Camp Flexible is not the work of a contracting company. It is the work of the soldiers of the Flexible Battalion. Soldiers exchanged their

"our warriors'" gear for shovels, picks, ropes, tents, generators, forklifts and construction parts.

"Making it happen," is how Staff Sgt. William Jones, Battery C's 2nd Fire Platoon sergeant described the operation.

Higher headquarters — Division Artillery and 1st Armored Division Headquarters — contributed to the mission's success.

Building the LSA had its challenges such as finding shovels, to getting a lowboy, to acquiring a

70kw generator.

There were some challenges such as finding mystery points of contact, which was like completing a land navigation course without a compass or a map.

In one case soldiers went to the airport's terminal to link up with a helicopter pilot who was supposed to be bringing in a much needed piece of equipment, only to find out that the equipment was arriving in a road convoy.

All in all the operation was a

success, officials said.

However the battalion's mission at Camp Flexible continues with position improvements such as placing concertina wire and filling and arranging sandbags.

The battalion's first visitors, members of the 82nd Airborne, are now ready to follow on to their final destination.

The soldiers of the Flexible Battalion demonstrated once again that they are second to none, said officials.



Soldiers from Battery C, 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery, erect tents at the site of what is now Camp Flexible. The camp features all of the amenities a unit needs when arriving in theater or departing.

Outings

Sept. 5, dining out Korean at Kaiserslautern, order off the menu, leave the Underground at 5:30 p.m.

Sept. 12, middle school dance at the Underground, \$3 for members, \$5 for nonmembers, 7-11 p.m.

Sept. 20, high school dance at the Teen Cafe, \$3 for members, \$5 for nonmembers, 7 p.m. to midnight.

Sept. 26, college night at the Underground, no cost, 6-8 p.m.

All events are open for Youth Service members only and trips are tentative based on threat conditions.

Need volunteers

Youth Services is looking for volunteers, youths and adults, to assist with special interest clubs and sporting/recreational events. For more information contact your local youth center or visit Baumholder's youth website at www.baumholder.army.mil/youthsite/html/ys.htm.

Staff needed

Youth Services is looking for new staff members who are enthusiastic, motivated and proactive with teens.

Youth Services

New activities

Homework and computer lab instructors are now offering programs throughout the year.

Swimming classes

Swimming classes are offered for infants to 18-year-olds. The cost is \$45 for eight sessions. For more information call mil 485-7003.

Martial arts

Chinese Goju classes are offered in Neubrücke every Monday and Thursday from 6-7 p.m. The cost is \$30 per month. For more information call mil 485-7003.

Starting soon

Gymnastics and dance classes will soon be offered by Baumholder Youth Services. Watch for future advertising.

Clubs

Torch Club

Torch Clubs are chartered small-group leadership and service clubs

for boys and girls age 11-13. A Torch Club is a powerful vehicle through which club staff can help meet the special needs of younger adolescents at a critical stage in their development.

Torch Club members learn to elect officers and work together to plan and implement activities in four areas: service to club and community, education, health and fitness and social recreation.

Keystone Club

Keystoning is the boys and girls movement's most dynamic teen program. Keystone Clubs are chartered small-group leadership and service clubs for boys and girls ages 14-18.

Keystoners elect officers and plan and implement their own activities in six areas: service to club and community, leadership development, education and career exploration, unity, free enterprise and social recreation. Keystone Club members and their advisers are eligible for nomination to steering

committees which organize regional and national Teen Supreme Keystone Conferences attended by thousands of Keystoners each year.

Teen Sports Club

The Teen Sports Club is a teen leadership group that promotes health, fitness and sports related careers in boys and girls clubs.

Members meet on a regular basis to learn about issues inside and outside their club related to sports and fitness.

Club members age 13-18 volunteer at least 25 hours as referees, coaches or in other athletic department support roles. Club leaders can attend Sports Leadership Camps in each of Boys and Girls Clubs of America's five regions after the completion of their 25 volunteer hours.

For more information contact your local youth center.

Bell tells families to be patient on mid-tour leave

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

222nd Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

Gen. B.B. Bell, commander of U.S. Army Europe, paid a visit to the Baumholder community Aug. 19 to tour key family support facilities and talk with family members of deployed soldiers.

Bell addressed a group of Baumholder Family Readiness Group leaders and focused on two key issues, mid-tour leave and the possible redeployment of the 1st Armored Division to the continental United States.

He told the FRG leaders that the bottom line on mid-tour leave is that it has not been approved for soldiers currently deployed to Iraq.

"Here's the real deal on mid-tour leave today. The United States government has not approved a mid-tour leave for this operation. The Army has approved it, it endorses it and they're banging on the leadership's doors in the office of the secretary of defense to get final approval for the program," said Bell.

"The last time that the United States of America endorsed a mid-tour leave program was when 1st Armored Division, your outfit right out of Baumholder, right here, when then Col. John Batist took his brigade to the Balkans. He took his brigade out of here and we established a mid-tour leave program because they were there for a year. We did that because we have a tradition in our Army since the Vietnam era of one year tours and mid-tour leaves, so you can break this thing up in six month blocks," said Bell.

He explained how the mid-tour leave program works and added that it is a challenge for commanders and an expensive proposition for America because of all the logistical arrangements that must be taken care of such as chartering planes to fly soldiers to a central location.

The dilemma that commanders face with mid-tour leave while in combat, he explained, is that "no commander wants to let anybody go. But why would a commander



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Lisa Box, Family Readiness Group leader from Company A, 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, presents Gen. B.B. Bell, U. S. Army Europe commander, with an Operation Iraqi Freedom T-shirt during his visit to Baumholder Aug. 19. During his visit Bell met with rear detachment commanders and toured numerous support facilities such as School Age Services, the Underground teen center, a child development center, the 222nd Base Support Battalion central processing facility and Army Community Service. He also met with FRG leaders and brought them up to date on the latest information about mid-tour leave and other key deployment issues. He fielded questions from the FRG leaders.

not want to let anybody go? He's got a mission that's at risk and you know that. He's got a mission that is going well. I've been with your husbands. I spent four days down in Iraq. They are doing terrific and they are making change. I mean the Iraqis are fired up. They are on the team and they are playing ball. There are some bad guys around. We didn't see any. It is a dangerous environment and we are taking casualties and you know that and you live with that every day, I'm not trying to sugar coat it.

"On the flip side, your spouses, men and woman, are down there making a difference. But in that context, the commanders will have a dilemma if this program is approved and that is who can go and

when can they go? Just walk with them on that. That's all I can tell you. They are in the jaws of a vice. They want everybody to go on mid-tour leave. But they've got to keep the mission going and it will be a dilemma, but they will find a way to get most of the people back who need to come back. They'll ask first for volunteers. That's the way we did it in Bosnia. Who wants to stay on mission? Of course everybody will raise their hand and we say stop, let's be serious about this," said Bell.

If and when mid-term leave is approved, commanders will first consider granting leave to those soldiers who need to go home right away. They will consider issues such as child birth or soldiers who haven't seen their new child.

They will also consider medical issues within the family.

"There are all kinds of criteria. They'll work with that. Their goal is to get everybody who wants to come home, home. That's what they'll try to do in the one-year window," said Bell.

He explained that everyday that goes by without an approval for this program makes it harder for the

program to work because the window to work everybody in becomes smaller.

"So it's vital that this approval, if we're going to have it from Washington, gets done right away. I believe that within the next week we'll get an answer out of Washington on where we are on this program, straight up or straight down. Hang in there for about a week," he said.

Restationing

Restationing of the 1st Armored Division has been the topic of interest in Baumholder for the last few weeks, and there are no lack of rumors and bad information floating around in the military and host nation communities. Bell told the FRG leaders that there are currently no orders to redeploy the division, but that America's leaders are working the issue.

"I believe some day this division will be restationed in the United States of America. I believe that our national leaders want that. I believe that they will continue to move in that direction," said Bell. "But the political divisions of all this, the discussions in the international community, our Congress and our

host country have not all been brought into this process. So we have to let whoever wants to work this, work this," he said.

"Right now there's no secret redeployment order. But I am prepared to send this division anywhere in the world that our nation wants it to go to position it for future operations. I will do it the most effective way I can, principally considering the family issues because I think that's the biggest drill that we'll have to be concerned about, unless we're moving them out to a combat zone, which I don't see any more combat for this division right now, as soon as we can get them out of Iraq," said Bell.

He also thanked the family members for all they do for the nation. "What you're doing for America and the war on terrorism is as important as what any person is doing, whether it's your spouse engaged in combat, or whether it is somebody working in the Pentagon," he said.

"My view is that America is at risk. We are probably more at risk as a nation today than we have been since the Civil War, in my view. When you look at the goals and objectives of international terrorism and what their intentions are for the United States of America, it's shocking and frightening.

"For some reason they believe that your Constitution and your way of living is wrong. That gender equality is wrong. They believe that ethnic, cultural and religious equality is wrong. And they believe that your form of representative government where the people decide who leads them and elect their officials to take them forward is also wrong," said Bell.

"And for reasons that I can't explain, but certainly in the last 10-20 years, that group of people has decided to challenge you in a very direct and clear way. It manifested itself in 9-11, but it's more fundamental than that. So our way of living is at some risk.

"Our government has tasked us to go forth and do battle across a wide range of endeavors. Some of it's combat, and that's what you're all into. But there are other pieces of this battle. One is just hearts and minds and ideas and what's right for the human dimension and what's not right and speaking our peace about that. The other piece is going and ferreting out people who do bring weapons to bear against us and either capture or kill them and going forth in places like Iraq to

See Bell tells on page 13

1st AD brothers reunite in Baghdad

Story and photo by Spc.
Chad D. Wilkerson
372nd Mobile Public Affairs
Detachment

Two brothers, both serving with the 1st Armored Division, were reunited Aug. 15 in Baghdad after leaving home for Operation Iraqi Freedom seven months ago.

Pfc. Eric Lind, 22, an infantryman with Company A, 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, and Spc. Jason Lind, 20, a heavy construction equipment operator with the 671st Engineer Company, an Army Reserve unit out of Portland, Ore., had not seen each other since January.

Even though both knew that the other was in Iraq with his respective unit, neither knew where the other was, nor how to get in contact.

"I came here with 3rd Infantry Division, and I will probably leave with 1st Armored Division," said Jason, the reservist. "I have been looking for my brother for a while and I couldn't find him — but he found me."

The likelihood of running into a specific individual among the thousands of U.S. soldiers spread across Iraq is small.

But, as fate would have it, Eric's eyes were observant enough to recognize his brother's unit designation on some engineer equipment during a routine trip to Baghdad International Airport, he said.

"One time we went to BIAP and I noticed some pontoon bridges all folded up," said Eric, the 1st Armored Division soldier. "I looked over and saw 671st and thought that looks awfully familiar. So we went back two weeks later to stop by, and we surprised him pretty



Pfc. Eric Lind (left) and Spc. Jason Lind, joke about the circumstances that reunited them. Eric coordinated with his company first sergeant to make the reunion with his younger brother a memorable one.

good."

Eric coordinated with Company A's 1st Sgt. Alec Lazore in order to make the brothers' reunion a memorable one.

"I was scared when we first saw each other because his first sergeant was about ready to smoke me — asking me all these questions," Jason said. "I was stuttering, and

then Eric popped out. It was really nice because I had been looking for him for a while; so it was pretty exciting."

Brothers in arms

Although the brothers have been thousands of miles apart at times, the environment of the military has helped fill the relationship

gap left by the absence of their sibling.

"It feels awkward talking and hanging out. We have never even seen each other in desert camouflage uniform or battle dress uniform before," said Jason. "It seems like we have not been apart, even through all we have been through here in Baghdad."

"One thing I do like about my job (as a soldier) is the camaraderie and brotherhood that develops. And when you go out and do missions, the guys with you become almost like brothers to you," Eric said.

"That is why it feels like we have not been apart, because I have always had friends to fall back on as brothers."

Bell tells

Continued from page 12

give, in the end, representative government and pluralism an opportunity to grow and prosper in an area of the world that has gone down another path," he said.

An investment

He also told the family members that he looks at what they do as a clear investment strategy, and although they may not think they're investing in America, they are.

"I honest to God believe that in the big bank in the sky, 20 years from now, we can go ... and look at your personal contributions," said Bell. He explained that the sacrifices families make by raising their children in an environment where

the soldiers are gone and by keeping their chins up and staying on course contributes to the future of America. "I think you're making a deposit for the furtherism and future of our democracy. I'm not kidding you," he said.

"You and your spouses and your soldiers have been asked by your government to contribute to the future of the United States of America," said Bell. "And you're making the investment in your future."

"When you retire from this business, or walk away from it or settle down, I think you can always feel very proud and have enormous comfort that part of the reason that the Constitution is going to be

around for another 200 or 400 or 500 years, or whatever, is because of the investment that you personally made and that you own part of that Constitution and it's yours. I honestly believe it," he said.

"So I'm here to thank you for your energy and your efforts and your sacrifice," said Bell.

He also pointed out to family members that their soldiers were doing great things in Iraq.

"They are turning the world around. I have great, great hope for the future of Iraq, and you don't read about that in the paper every day. I have great hope for the future down there and for our nation for that matter. We're a strong country. We have good

ideals, good values, we're multi-ethnic and multi-cultural. That's the only thing that will work in the modern world," he said.

The issue of reintegration always crops up after redeployment and Bell did not fail to point out that proper reintegration was critical and important.

Redeployment

"We're going to reintegrate by the book so that families understand how to live together. Everybody who goes through deployment has complexities in their lives, big time," he said.

"You're living a dream right now. You've got kids who are sick, you've got parents who are

ill. You've got everything going on. And now you've got this husband who comes back and that's another problem. It will be wonderful initially, but it becomes another problem you've got to deal with," he said.

"Reintegration and doing it to standard, the Army way, is important because we know fairly clearly what the physiological barriers are. So we want to do that to standard so that you can find a path through this effectively and understand each other, and then go on block leave."

"And then we'll come out of block leave and we'll figure out what we're going to do with the 1st Armored Division," said Bell.